

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, on this Earth Day, I rise to recognize the crucial significance of President Biden's international climate summit.

After 4 years of neglecting our responsibilities to the planet and to future generations, the U.S. is back on the world stage and ready to take the bold and urgent action that the climate crisis demands.

There is no "go it alone" approach when it comes to climate change. To mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis, the entire world must come together with a common goal of stopping pollution, protecting public health, and building a clean and just economy.

The consequences of neglecting our duty to protect the planet have never been more clear.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance the ambitious climate plans of the summit and come together to create a cleaner and better tomorrow.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 106th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Saturday, April 24, is Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. On the anniversary of the Armenian genocide, we mourn the innocent lives lost and renew our call to recognize these events for what they were: a genocide.

The Armenian people were removed from their homes and fell victim to a mass murder campaign between 1915 and 1916. It is estimated that over 1 million Armenians were killed in this tragedy.

So many years later, people still do not call these events a genocide. If we do not teach an accurate history, then we are doomed to repeat it. It is our responsibility to recognize these tragedies and to mourn them.

ADAM TOLEDO

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the killing of Adam Toledo shook the Nation.

The video released a week ago shows a 13-year-old boy being chased by an officer, complying with instructions to drop it, and it show his hands up. Still the officer shot Adam in the chest. He complied and still died.

It is hard to watch the video and not imagine a son or a nephew in his place. It brought about very powerful, personal emotions for people. I know it did for me.

I was around the same age as Adam when I moved to the neighborhood of

Little Village. I have known countless youth who have died on our streets, whether it was gun violence from gangs, or in this case, the police.

We must pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and end qualified immunity.

But in Black and Latino communities, we know the police play by a different set of rules too often. Change requires more accountability. We must invest in families and youth rather than violent policing.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

"To rest in peace, Adam Toledo, our families and our community need justice and hope that this doesn't happen again."

Para descansar en paz, Adam Toledo, nuestras familias y comunidad necesitan justicia y esperanza de que esto no se repetirá.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STRICKLAND). The gentleman will provide a translation of his remarks to the Clerk.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVE RAAK

(Mr. FEENSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dave Raak from Hospers, Iowa.

Dave recently passed away from a long and courageous battle with a rare organ condition.

Dave dedicated his life to serving his community. His great-grandfather started Hospers Telephone Company in the early 1900s. Dave eventually took over the company from his dad and worked tirelessly to ensure that rural communities served by HTC Communications had quality telecommunication services.

Dave was instrumental in building a fiber network in the 1990s across Iowa which now serves as the backbone of our economy by connecting rural Iowa to the world.

Dave also leaves behind his wife of 54 years, Arlene; and their children; Ruth, Rachel, and Paul; along with their many grandchildren.

Dave was truly a family man.

Please join me in praying for his loved ones as they say goodbye.

BLACK APRIL

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, April 30 we will commemorate the 46th anniversary of Black April and the Fall of Saigon. On this day we are reminded of the pain of losing your homeland and the sacrifices made in the search for freedom from tyranny.

When Saigon fell in 1975, thousands of families were forced to flee their home or be brutalized in reeducation

camp. Today, the refugees of Vietnam are proud Americans who are a very important part of our community and our country.

The United States must always be a beacon of hope to those without hope. We must continue to stand up for human rights and religious freedom around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN ALCEE HASTINGS

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to say my final goodbye to Alcee Hastings, the dean of Florida's congressional delegation, who recently passed away.

Someone will be elected to fill his seat, but Alcee is irreplaceable. His life was full, complex, and extraordinary.

Born in 1936, Alcee spent his formative years in my district. He lived in Altamonte Springs and attended the all-Black Crooms Academy in Sanford.

This was the segregated South where the opportunities available to African Americans were few and the obstacles to success were many. But Alcee was a force of nature. He rose to become an attorney, then a State judge, and then a Federal judge.

Judge Hastings suffered a setback, but he rose again becoming a Member of Congress admired by his colleagues and beloved by his constituents.

As Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES put it, he loved the people he served, and he always fought for the least, the lost, and the left behind.

The book of Alcee's life contained challenging chapters, but ultimately it is a story of redemption and achievement in the face of adversity, written by a warrior for justice and equality who left the world far better than he found it.

Rest in peace, Congressman. You have earned it.

PAY PARITY FOR WOMEN

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, as a proud father of two daughters, Genevieve and Scarlett, I was honored to join my colleagues last week in voting to support the passage of H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act. It is deeply regrettable that despite the enactment of the Equal Pay Act in 1963, there remains serious wage gaps based on gender.

According to the American Association of University Women, in the First District of Indiana, a woman earns just 63 cents for every dollar that a man earns for performing the same job.

There must be equal pay for equal work, and I am pleased that the House has taken action to right this wrong.

I encourage our Senate colleagues to move forward with addressing this

wage gap so that every individual, regardless of gender, can receive a fair wage for work they do.

REPARATION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we have had a tumultuous, but yet invigorating 2 weeks. Just a week ago, we were able, in the Judiciary Committee, to pass H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals.

Those who voted for it came from all parts of the country and represented all racial groups. It was a wonderful experience of understanding the cruciality and recognizing the slave history of African Americans and further developing proposals to deal with the dastardly impacts on African Americans.

We are delighted to have the support of Japanese Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, and, of course, White Americans because they understand the healing power of H.R. 40.

Then we just recently had a judgment—as I have said on this floor, I know the Floyd family. They are America's family.

We had a judgment on Tuesday that showed the strength of America and her justice system and the recognition that we are all created equal and each one has to be held accountable for his actions.

So this has been a good week. America needs to know that. We look forward to passing H.R. 40 on this floor in celebration of the commemoration of Juneteenth when slaves were finally freed and passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD BOX PROGRAM

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, last week the press—not the Department of Agriculture—reported that the Trump administration's Farmers to Families Food Box Program would come to an end.

In subsequent reporting and an unapologetic email from the USDA, it was made clear that the only reason for its termination was because of the man who created it.

The Farmers to Families Food Box Program had open eligibility, making certain anyone and everyone in need, regardless of status, income, or household size, had supplementary access to

fresh meats, dairy, and produce. Since May 2020, this program has provided more than 156 million boxes to households across the United States.

Farmers to Families provided an alternative market for food intended for restaurants and food service, creating outlets for supply chains. Due to COVID this food could not easily be realigned to retail markets quickly enough to prevent spoilage. Even today, Farmers to Families provides fresh products in greater quantities than traditional emergency feeding programs—items such as dairy, meat, and fresh produce, which have always presented unique logistical challenges for distribution.

The program reemployed workers in the commercial food distribution sector whose work was halted by the closure of restaurants, hotels, and other food service industries during COVID.

□ 1300

In my own district, L&M Farms, a participant in the program, managed to supply more than 600,000 boxes of fresh produce to those in need.

Regardless of the various hiccups heard during USDA's listening sessions in previous hearings and from Members of this very House, the program worked exactly as intended, as a lifeline for consumers and producers alike during a challenging time.

Nine hours after the press broke the story, USDA relayed, via email, that commodity purchases will “continue to occur and be directed to existing, reliable channels of distribution.”

This leads me to believe that locally focused producers and distributors who benefited greatly from Farmers to Families are being traded in for billion-dollar organizations that have already received billions in government aid to perpetuate dependence instead of eradicating it.

Madam Speaker, I hope this body comes together to voice their strong opposition to the termination of this small piece of salvation that had a positive impact on all of our local communities, particularly those in rural areas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida, who truly is my friend, for her comments.

At this time, it is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my friend, a Baird man.

PLIGHT OF LAKES SHAFER AND FREEMAN

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my good friend from Texas allowing me to share with this body the program that I have for today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the overwhelming challenges plaguing a community in my district. It is located in White and Carroll Counties of west central Indiana. The communities surrounding Lakes Shafer and Freeman are a recreation destination for Hoosiers from all across the State and from Americans across the country.

The Twin Lakes, as they are known, straddle the small community of Mon-

ticello. In the nearly 100 years since the two reservoirs were created by damming up the Tippecanoe River, their far-reaching attraction has created a flourishing local economy built on tourism, replete with the trappings of a family vacation, including its own amusement park, cruise boat, resort, marina, and much more.

Despite all the buildup of amenities of this Hoosier destination, the lakes remained the focal point of the community and the driving force of the regional economy. Unfortunately, lake conditions can also have a negative impact on the local area.

At the hands of Mother Nature and outside forces, these crown jewels of the region have been tarnished. On multiple occasions, Lake Freeman, because of drought conditions, has been drained to the riverbed that flows at the bottom.

Unfortunately, these episodes of diminishing lake levels have come at an increasingly frequent rate in recent years and in times of even moderate drought conditions. These droughts caused the lake to become almost completely drained and resulted in devastation to the natural ecology and the local economy.

Businesses, homes, property—both real and personal—tax revenue, and the loss of family time are all impacted. The past 7 months have been one of those times as drought conditions last summer once again caused Lake Freeman's water level to plummet by more than 13 feet, completely draining the vast majority of this 1500-acre reservoir.

One victim of this devastation is the disruption of local ecological balance. During the worst parts of the episode, area residents walked the lake bed only to find dead turtles, fish, mussels, and more that had succumbed to the lack of water.

Safety also became a tremendous challenge for locals and boaters as water levels sank, exposing stumps, sharp objects, and other items usually covered by the water.

These impacts on the lake quality are especially disappointing to a community that has prided itself in its conservation stewardship of the lake. Members of the community have banded together to form Shafer & Freeman Lakes Environmental Conservation Corporation, also known as SFLECC.

This volunteer group raises thousands of dollars every year to fund the Summer Lakes Clean Up project. Over the years, this group has volunteered over 17,000 hours in helping preserve the beauty and natural environment of the lakes.

Residents are facing tremendous economic costs as well. Property values have plunged; local drinking water and drinking wells have dried up; retaining walls have buckled, threatening to collapse; and boats are stranded and unable to be winterized.

The financial costs to solve these issues are too high for many residents.